

[7th February 1924]

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ From the reply of the hon. the Finance Member, it appears that this process has been tried somewhere in the Presidency on less than a manufacturing scale. What has been the result there ? ”

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—“ Government are not in possession of any information regarding it, except what has appeared in a pamphlet which has received a wide circulation.”

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“ Is it a fact, as stated in the pamphlet that has been issued, that bullocks' blood and sheep's blood and glue are used in the refinement of salt in England ? ”

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—“ Sir, I am glad to have the opportunity of telling the House that that is one of the pieces of mischievous nonsense which this pamphlet contains. It purports to be a quotation from a book called ‘ Common Commodities and Industries—Salt ’ and the statement about bullocks' blood, sheep's blood and glue, which appears on page 16 of that book, is extracted from an account of the process employed in Saxony in the year of grace 1566, or three and a half centuries ago.”

Mr. J. SALDANHA :—“ Will the Government be pleased to make the experiment themselves ? ”

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—“ Government have made numerous experiments themselves and are confident of their ability to make salt as good as that described in the pamphlet and are ready to put it on sale as soon as anybody will buy it.”

### Telegraphs.

#### *Telegraph stations at Rasipur and Atur.*

200 Q.—Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been prolonged agitation on the part of the Salem people for opening telegraph stations at Rasipur and Atur, two important taluk headquarters ; and

(b) whether in view of the commercial importance attached to these stations and in view of the representations made in this Council from time to time Government would state how the matter stands at present ?

A.—(a) The hon. Member has called attention to the matter by questions in Council on four occasions.

(b) The inhabitants of Atur were at first unwilling to find the necessary guarantee. The President of the Atur Taluk Voters' Association, however, on the 31st December 1923, advised the Government that they were sending a representation agreeing to the terms proposed. The representation in question has not yet reached the Government. In the case of Rasipur the Postmaster-General has not yet intimated the amount of the guarantee required. It is being reminded.